

Excerpt from RPT 20-046 CVD Committee Meeting 11 March Notes – dated 11 March 2020

Cabinet paper: Further immigration regulatory amendments to support COVID-19 response

- 19 This paper is being presented in today's CVD committee meeting.
- 20 The Minister of Immigration is proposing amendments to how cruise passengers are processed. These will allow authorities to require cruise passengers and crew to apply for entry permission and a visa on arrival in New Zealand.
- 21 Under current regulations passengers and crew who arrive in New Zealand on a ship, and intend to leave New Zealand on that same ship within 28 days are not required to apply for a visa and entry permission.
- 22 The change will make it easier for Immigration New Zealand to refuse entry to passengers and crew who have arrived on a vessel that becomes subject to quarantine. Immigration New Zealand will only use the new measure for any cruise ships that are subject to quarantine – they do not intend to apply it to all cruise ships.
- 23 There will be implications for Customs if a cruise ship is quarantined, as Customs will be required to provide immigration processing for everyone on board. This will require a large number of officers, who may be working in temporary facilities over a number of days. Customs already has processes in place to handle large numbers of cruise passengers, but if the vessel is quarantined Customs' processes will have to adapt to ensure the health and safety of officers, and to account for passengers and crew who have not have obtained visas or Electronic Travel Authorities in advance.

Noting Paper: COVID-19 Border Measures Update

- 24 This paper is being presented in today's CVD committee meeting.
- 25 The Minister of Health is presenting a paper that describes how authorities decide if an area or country is a risk for COVID-19. Customs reviewed this paper and asked for it to include a reference to the difficulty in screening for travel to specific areas within a country, rather than the country as a whole. This has been added to the paper under '**Other considerations**'.